REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 11 and 21 are provisionally rejected for alleged obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 9 and 17 of co-pending application No. 10/199,612. Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to an abstract idea. Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,480,836 ("Colby") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,775,675 ("Nwabueze").

Interview Summary

Applicants' undersigned representative, Mr. Eiferman, and the Examiner participated in a telephonic interview on December 19, 2005 to discuss the present application. Agreement was reached that Applicants would submit the above claim amendments to more clearly described the claimed invention. In particular, the Examiner asserted that clam terms "pre-determined manner" were unclear, and that the term "approximation" more clearly describes the claimed invention.

Double Patenting

Claims 1, 11 and 21 are provisionally rejected for alleged obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 9 and 17 of co-pending application No. 10/199,612. Applicants will address the rejection upon receipt of an indication of allowable claims. Abeyance of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to an abstract idea. Claim 1 is hereby amended to state that the claimed method is "implemented at least in part by a computer." Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejections are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,480,836 ("Colby") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,775,675 ("Nwabueze"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The claimed invention is directed to analytically modeling data organized according to non-referred attributes. More specifically, the claimed invention enables a measure to be tied to a dimension by allocating the measure to the dimension in accordance with an approximation. For example, consider the scenario in which there is existing data for sales per product – but there is no existing data for sales per product per aisle. In this scenario, it may be desirable to approximate the data for sales per product per aisle. In particular, if there 30 total sales of bread, and bread is stocked on three different aisles, then it may, for example, be desirable to allocate 10 sales to each of the three aisles. A number of other approximation methods are also claimed. The claimed invention enables this approximation to be performed in the context of a multi-dimensional data cube (See Application, Summary of the Invention). In particular, dependent claims 9, 19 and 29 are directed to allocating a first and a second measure in accordance with a first and a second approximation, respectively.

Colby discloses a system and method for determining and generating candidate views for a database. These candidate views are data tables that include a select portion of data that corresponds to anticipated user queries. For example, if it is anticipated that a user will submit a number of queries requesting information about sales totals for specific products during specific quarters, then an aggregated table may be generated that includes selected data from a sales table, a product table, and a time/period table. (Colby, Col. 7, ll. 61 – Col. 8, ll. 19). Colby does not teach or suggest approximating non-existent data - or tying a measure to a dimension by allocating the measure to the dimension in accordance with such an approximation. Nwabueze similarly fails to teach or suggest any such approximation.

In contrast to the claimed invention, the cited references do not teach or suggest, "tying the first measure to the first dimension by, for each entry of the first attribute, allocating the entry to each entry of the first dimension in accordance with a first approximation," as recited in independent claims 1, 11 and 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 11 and 21 are patentable over the cited

references.   Applicants further submit that dependent claims 2-10, 12-20 and 22-30 are patentable at least by reason of their dependency.   Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections are respectfully requested.
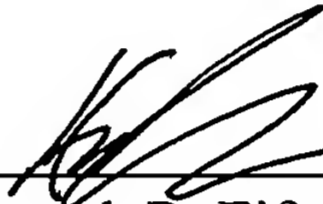
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by the present amendment. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Date: January 27, 2006

Kenneth R. Eiferman
Registration No. 51,647

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439